

John R. Black testifies in affidavit in substance as follows:

“On the first day of the Coroner’s investigation into the death of Mary Phagan, Mr. J.W.Coleman, step father of said Mary Phagan, told me about 2:30 o’clock in the afternoon that there was a boy down in the lobby of the station house who had told him on Sunday and Monday nights that he had gone to town with Mary Phagan on Saturday, April 26th, 1913, and that this boy told him he sat on the same seat with Mary. Mr. Coleman also stated to me that this boy down in the lobby had described to him Mary’s leaving the car at Marietta and Forsyth streets, her going south along Forsyth St. toward the National Pencil Factory, her conversation in which she told him she was afraid of Leo M. Frank, etc.

“Mr. Coleman and I went to the lobby and talked to the boy who was George Epps, later a witness in this case, - and George Epps admitted to witness the things Mr. Coleman had communicated to witness. George made a statement to witness embodying what he later testified in the case. Witness called the coroner out and George Epps repeated the same things to him.

“The next I heard of said George Epps was the next day when George called me up by phone and asked me to come to the Spring Bed Company’s place, where he was working. This was out on Jones Avenue. I went to his place in company with Mr. Harry Scott. Said George Epps communicated certain names to us with the statement that these parties could furnish us information on the case. He volunteered to go with us, stating that he could carry us to these parties, and we accepted his offer to go; and we three went out to gather to look up these parties.

“I never was in Mr. Dorsey’s office with George Epps before the trial, as I had been detailed by Chief Lanford to work with Scott of the Pinkertons and report to Starnes and Campbell what we might learn. It not being my duty to report to Mr. Dorsey at that time, I did not go about his office. Furthermore, witness never did, at the station house, in the Solicitor General’s office or elsewhere direct, tell or suggest to George Epps what he should swear in this case. And any statement or insinuation by anyone whomsoever to that effect is utterly false.

“Regarding the alleged statement of Epps that witness put a statement in his mouth to fit the Jim Conley situation, - this is false and could not have been true because George Epps made his first statement before witness knew anything of Jim Conley in the case, Jim not having been arrested when George first made his statement to witness.”